CHILEAN GOVERNMENT PLANNING TO ESTABLISH A POPULIST COLONY.

HOW THE ISLAND NOW LOOKS.

IT HAS RICH SEAL AND COD FISH-ERIES-FULL OF WILD GOATS.

In the Crusoe Cave and Upon Selkirk's Lookout-A Chilean Penal Settlement - Story of the Robinson Crusoe of

the southern half is bleak and bare as the western slopes of the Andes in the rear of the Peruvian desert. The most of the shores are inaccessible. The best landing place is at Cumberland bay, at which point there is now a fishing settlement which includes about all the people of the island. There are, it is said, only fifteen ment on the bay there are cottages, or straw huts, which once formed the homes of quite a number of settlers who lived here. These huts are made of cane wattled with straw. There are gardens about some of them, and at one time there was an agricultural colony here. One man attempted to start a stock-raising plantation, and he had, it is said, as many as 30,999 head of cattle and an equal number of sheep grazing in the valleys on the horth of the island. Of late, however, I am told that this business has almost entirely disappeared, the cattle are allowed to go wild and there are now on the island wild sheep, wild goats and wild mules. I give this statement on the authority of Photographer Spencer.

The Riches of Juan Fernander.

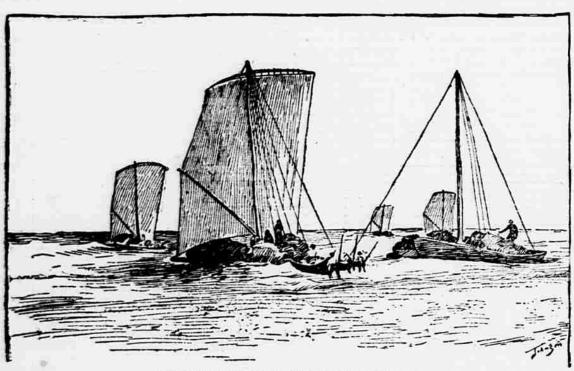
The Riches of Juan Fernandez. There is no doubt that Juan Fernandez is a rich island so far as the soil of the northern part of it is concerned, and with this new colonizing scheme it may support

This tablet is erected near Schirk's lookout by Commodore Powell and the officers of H. M.
S. Topare, A. D. 1888.

The uninhabited Galapagos Islands, off the coast of Ecuador, have more recently had an Alexander Schirk. This man was deserted by his companions, and when found years afterward he was quite maked and was carrying a pig on his back. He had lived upon fruits and roots, and had caught wild cattle in traps and had killed them with a spear made of a pocketknife tied to a stick. His hut was made of the hides of such cattle, of which there were a number on the island, having been left there years ago, when the place was used as a penal colony for Ecuador.

A Billion Dollars From a Dunghill.

this new colonizing scheme it may support quite a large number of people. The hills are covered now with wild oats, and there is good grass in every open spot. The fruit trees planted more than a hundred years ago by Selkirk and others have reproduced themselves, and there are many wild fruits, while the grapes which you find in the woods are as delicious as those which Robinston Crusoe's island is to be colonized. The government of Chile has just adopted resolutions to that effect and by the time this letter shall have been published an inspector will have been appointed and in all A Billion Dollars From a Dunghill.



SAIL BOATS CARRYING GUANO TO STEAMERS.

probability a number of new inhabitants will have been carried to the island of Juan Fernandez. Within the past few weeks the president of Chile has visited this island on a tour of inspection, and both himself and his officials report that it made of great value to the country. the idea is to make a large fishing colony there. The codfish which are caught off the shores of Juan Fernandez are especially fine. They swarm about its shores, and in connection with lobsters and other shell-

sbouth Pacific ocean. It can only be reached by special steamers, which make excursions there once or twice a year, and it will not be possible for me to visit it at this time. I have, however, met members of the president's party who have just returned, and have also had the assistance of Mr. Spencer. of Santiago, an American photographer, and from whose photographs this article is illustrated. Before I describe the island as it is in this year of our Lord 1858, let me tell you something of its history, and how it came to be the inspiration for that wonderful tale of Robinson Crusoc. The story dates back to 1704, almost 200 years. At that time an English ship of ninety tons, known as the first real Robinson Crusoc. He was a Scotchman, named Alexander Selkirk. He was the sailing master of the ship, but for some reason or other fell out with the captain, and one story is that he headed a mutiny and was given his choice of being langed at the yardarm or of being placed on the desert island of Juan Fernandez. He accepted the latter alternative, and, with a small supply of provisions, he was landed in what is now called Cumberland bay. This was in September. 1704. He lived there for four years and four months, when the English privateer Duke was attracted by his watch fire and came to anchor at the Island and carried him home to England.

During his stay Selkirk had many of the adventures described in De Foe's book, although De Foe, having a better knowledge of the islands north of Brazil in the Caribbean sea, has made much of his story correspond to these in its description of scenery, products and climates. The skeleton or plan of De Foe was undoubtedly suggested by Selkirk's adventures, and you can almost trace poor Robinson Crusoe's wanderings in the story of Selkirk and Juan Fernandez. In the first place, the terrors which assailed Selkirk when he found himself alone on this wild spot were the same as those of Crusoe. He wished for a time that he had chosen to be hanged rather than have come ashore. Vell, when

When Selkirk arrived in London his story became the talk of the town. It was told in all the clubs and coffee houses, and Sir Richard Steele made a paper describ-ing Selkirk's adventures in one of his sing Selkirk's adventures in one of his papers. He tells how Selkirk at first landing in England seemed to have lost the cheracter of the average man by his soll-tude, but how later on this strangeness wore off. Selkirk published a little pamphlet of twelve pages describing his wanderings. The bulk of the story of Robinson Crusoe, however, was from the brain of Daniel De Foe, and it was his genius that made it the greatest story of adventure the world has ever known. It was written in London and was first published 179 years ago. A copy of the first unabridged and original edition is to be seen in a glass case in the British Museum library. Later editions have been considerably changed, and it is said thre are few booke which have been so multilated by the printers. Robinson Crusoe is now to be found in almost every known language. It has been printed in Spanish, German. Italian, Russian, Greek and Arabic, and when I was in China a few years ago I was told that a Chinese edition of the story was exciting the youthful minds among the celestials.

How Crusoe's Island Looks.

than De Foe's picture of it. It is only twelve miles long by about seven miles wide, but parts of it are the picture of desolation. It is a great mass of rocks, which rises upward from the waters for more than a thousand feet. It is made up of hills and mountains, of little ravines and valleys. The northern half of the island is covered with a dense vegetation.

Robinson Crusoe's Cave.

There are a number of caves on Juan Fernandez and several are pointed out in which it is said that Alexander Selkirk house and a certain amount of land, and of volcanic rock, is as large as the average parlor with a roof from ten to fifteen feet above the floor. The door of this cave is about fifteen feet high and its extent to the rear at least thirty feet. It shows signs of in connection with lobsters and other shelling in connection with lobsters and other shelling in connection with lobsters and other shelling in the dustry. There are also many seals, walling been lived in. There are little holes or pockets scooped out of the walls, such as are mentioned in Robinson Crusoe's deas are mentioned in Robinson Crusoe's deast are to a very large extent exhaust-ded. The American firm of Grace & Co., of Lima, have the contracts for loading the scription of his cave-home, and here and they have docks and machinery at the various islands for getting the subject of the same source probably comes a stone over which has been built in the rear of the cave. Other caves are covered with ferns and vegetation is so luxuriant that it is easy to imagine that Selkirk.

The guano out of the earth and on to the vessels. I am told that the shipments of the current year will not probably exceed 30.

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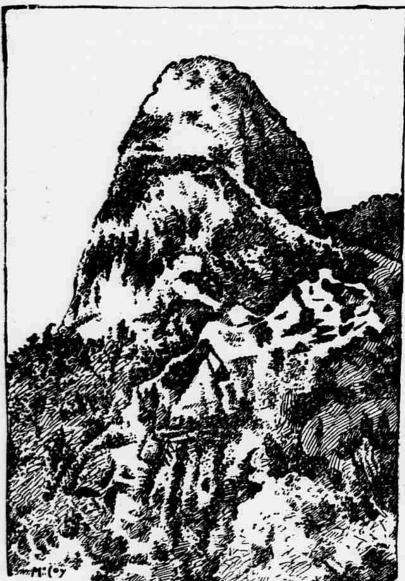
T rear at least thirty feet. It shows signs of

ors are getting something out of them to-day, although nothing like the enormous sums realized in the past. These guano islands are scattered all along the coast of Peru. I first saw them north of Lima, near the shores of Salavary, and at Pacas-mayo a guano ship from the Lobos islands came in for mail and precisions. Off the mayo a guano snip from the Lobos islands came in for mail and provisions. Off the Bay of Pisco, Peru. I saw the famous Chincha Islands, which have produced more than twelve million tons of this bird manure, and have brought into the Peruvian treasury millions upon millions of dollars. The shipping of guano is going on from these islands to-day, although the deposits are to a very large extent explanation.

have become walls of trees and have hiddea them from view.

A Chilean Penal Settlement.

At one time Chile had a penal settlement



on Juan Fernandez. More than a thousand criminals were kept here under the charge of a governor and guards. You can still see the ruins of the fortifications of that time. One of the sights of the island are the damp and fern-covered dungeons which were dug out of the bluff facing the harbor. These dungeons were among the most horrible ever constructed by Spanish cruelity for the torture of men. They were entered by vaulted passages which led from one damp chamber to another. They were without ventilation and were as dark as where the Guang Comes From. without ventilation and were as dark as the cells were far underground and were

the cells were far underground and were exciting the youthful minds occlestials.

Crasoe's Island Leoks.

Sinson Crusoe been really cast fernandez he would probably red more than he does in the island is bleaker and colder fees picture of it. It is only fees long by about seven miles parts of it are the picture of It is a great mass of rocks, supward from the waters for a thousand feet. It is made up a mountains of little ravines s. The northern half of the overed with a dense vegetation, encer's photographs show, but the excrement of birds. A sea gull, which

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fairly darkened the face of the ocean as they flew over it. They feed upon the fishes, and wherever you see a flock of eled from place to place and picked out islands from which it is said that more pelicans you may be sure there is a school of fish near by. The billis of these pelicans have great bags of yellow skin under them and they use these as nets to scoop up the fish. They are the gluttons of the sea and air, and often gorge themselves to such an extent that they cannot rise from the water, but remain there until sufficient of their food has digested to lighten their weight. About the Lebes islands there are the water, but remain there until sufficient of their food has digested to lighten their weight. About the Labos islands there are always millions of pelicans. The waters are black with them, and as you near the Islands you see them by the thousands seated on the rocks. They seem to be so-clable creatures and they hunt in flocks. They are but little afraid of man, and as you near the islands they seldom move without you go right among them. The guano of the Lobos islands is found in peckets covered with layers of sand which often vary in thickness from two to fifteen feer. The sand is shoveled off and the guano is then taken out. As it is dug into a strong smell of ammonia rises, and the men generally wear iron masks over their faces to keep the ammoniac dust out of their mouths, noses and lungs. The stuff is a good deal like fine sand and it is very penetrating. The guano is first loaded on trucks and carried on a tramway to the shore, where it is transferred to the ships, to be taken to Europe and America. I am told that a shipload of guano does not smell at all badly after a few days. The ammonia of the upper crust passes off and you cannot notice the filthiness of the cargo without going down into the hold.

An American Claim for Hundreds of

in 1804, he called attention to the value of They were then sixty feet deep, and he said there was enough manure on them to enrich the wornout lands of the Old World. The deposits, however, were not thought to be of value by the Peruvians until nearly half a century later when a Frenchman named Cochet called attention

than \$1,200,000,000 worth of guano was congress as the true discoverer of the beds and uses of guano, and in 1849 a grant of 5,000 tons of guano was voted him. He never got it, however, and, although his claim by right of discovery, which, according to their Peruvian law, gave the discoverer one-third, aggregated over \$400,000,000, he died in a poor house in Paris. Another discoverer of some of the guano islands was treated in the same way by the Peruvian government. This was a naturalized American citizen named Landreau. He discovered guano deposits which were worth about \$400,000,000, and, according to the Peruvian law, should have had \$133,000,000 from them. It was, it is said, through his discoveries that Peru was able to get a loan of Europe of two hundred million dollars, but when it came to the question of paying Landreau he was cut off without a cent. Just before the war between Chile and Peru a number of Americans had formed what was called the Peruvian Company. They had bought up the rights of the heirs of Cochet and Landreau and were attempting to make the Peruvian government pay back something of the enormous sums claimed by them as heirs of Cochet and Landreau. It is from the prospectus of this company, which was given me before leaving the United States by Colonel Dick Thompson, our former secretary of the navy, that the above statements are taken. This prospectus was not intended to be given to the newspapers, and the extent of the scheme has, I think, never been published. Its advocates brought the matter before congress. Secretaries of State Fish and Evarts both made reports upon it, and President Hayes in one case called the attention of congress to it. It never made any headway out here, and it is now, I suppose, dead, for the guano islands were given over to the Peruvian Corporation, an English syndicate, years ago as a part consideration of its assuming the Peruvian foreign debt. Peru is practically a bankroupt country, but when the claim was made it was rich, and the claimants expected to get at least a large part of the congress as the true discoverer of the bods and uses of guano, and in 1849 a grant of

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half million dollars to which they said they were entitled under the law.

The Guano Beds of To-day Guano is not worth so much to-day as it was years ago. The product is now comwas years ago. The product is now comparatively nothing. Other fertilizers have taken its place, and its price is less than half what it once was. There have been times when this bird manure was sold for \$199 a ton. To-day it can be bought, I am told, for \$39 or \$40 a ton. The first shipment to Europe was made more than fifty years ago. At that time twenty barrels of guano were taken to Liverpool and tried on a farm near that city. The result was such that orders were sent back for more, and soon hundreds of ships were employed in carrying guano to Europe. Often 200 ships would be at the different islands at one time. Chinese coolies were imported to get out the guano. They were horribly treated and to-day it is not uncommon to find dead Chinamen mixed with the new deposits. For a long time the guano islands gave Feru the greater part of its revenues, yielding about \$15,000,000 a year for a number of years. Now they are practically exhausted, and Peru has fallen from great riches to poverty.

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is one being made with some of the large plow manufacturers for the making of moldboards for plows. These large plates, which have to be made of iron for strength and covered over the entire surface for hardness and durability, are now made by welding sheets of steel over the iron. This steel plating or covering now costs the manufacturer 5½ cents per pound in its raw condition. By the new process, it is claimed, wrought iron moldboard, costing approximately ½ cents per pound, can be hardened so as to cost the manufacturer less than raw steel now does and still leave the company a liberal profit.

This process is wholly different from case the company a liberal profit.

This process is wholly different from case thardening and much simpler, cheaper and more practical. The inventor of this process is a man of German and Swedish descent. He has had the secret locked in his breast for fifteen years. He is said to be well versed in mechanics, especially as applied to iron and steel, but has little knowledge of the world, and in his fear of his secret being stolen from him and used to the profit of somebody else, he has kept the very fact of his discovery to himself.

It is stated that an application for invented in England called the Tugrin for invented in England called the Tugrin for

